

R E M A R K S

Favorable reconsideration of the application is most earnestly solicited in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

The outstanding Office action, dated June 28, 2005, allows claims 1-16 and rejects claims 17-19. Claims 17-19 have been cancelled without prejudice, thus rendering the rejection of these claims moot. New claim 20 has been added.

Applicant acknowledges that the Office has withdrawn its rejection of claims 1-16 and has allowed these claims. The Office has also withdrawn its rejection of claims 17 and 18, but has made a new rejection of these claims (and previously added claim 19) in view of a newly found reference – Klinger et al. As indicated, this latest rejection is rendered moot, as claims 17-19 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicant also acknowledges that the Office has accepted the drawing amendments proposed by Applicant in its previous response, dated April 13, 2005. In that response, annotated marked-up drawings were submitted to indicate the drawing amendments. Submitted herewith are new formal drawings incorporating the accepted drawing amendments, labeled as “Replacement Sheets,” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). As explained in the previous response, Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 3A were amended to show a protective substrate 15a, and Figs. 4 and 6 were amended to show a protective substrate 115a.

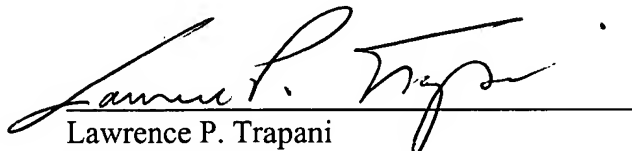
The specification, at Paragraph [0025], was also amended in Applicant’s previous response, dated April 13, 2005, to correspond to the drawing amendments. It is Applicant’s understanding that the Office has accepted the amendment to the specification.

Applicant has added a new claim – independent claim 20. Claim 20 is very similar to allowed claim 15, except it is written in independent form and does not require the attachment means to be initially applied to the extension portion. In other words, Claim 20 is broad enough to cover an embodiment where the attachment means is initially applied to the desk pad, for example, and attachment to the extension portion is accomplished by placing the desk pad (with attachment means) on the extension portion. It is respectfully submitted that, for the reasons supporting allowance of claims 1-16, newly added claim 20 is patentable over the art of record and in condition for allowance.

Early and favorable consideration of the application, as amended, is most earnestly solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney will be helpful, he is invited to call Applicants' attorney for an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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